Termination of service contract of employees

133. SHRI BHARATKUMAR RAUT: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Aviation Corporation of India Limited (NACIL) has terminated service contract of its nine employees for being over-weight;

(b) if so, under which clause of service rule has this action been taken;

(c) whether proper notice was served on the employees before their termination;

(d) whether this action would be withdrawn; and

(e) if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Services of these Cabin Crew have been dispensed with under the relevant Clause of their respective appointment letters for the post of Trainee Airhostess and as Airhostess, which read as under:-

(ii) "During the tenure of your services, your services are liable to be terminated:-

(a) if you fail to maintain normal vision without glasses; (b) do not maintain weight within prescribed limits; (c) develop air sickness."

(c) No, Sir.

(d) and (e) The termination has already been effected. Action is therefore complete.

Shortage of pilots

134. DR. T. SUBBARAMI REDDY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India is rapidly going to suffer in aviation sector as it is facing acute shortage of trained pilots, particularly for wide-bodied passenger jetliners and nearly 5,000 more pilots may be needed over the next five years;

(b) if so, the steps Government is proposing to take to meet this shortage;

(c) whether crunch is also being faced by Air India;

(d) if so, whether any concrete steps have been taken by these airlines to meet shortage;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether Government has decided not to appoint foreign pilots; and

(g) if so, to what extent Government is hopeful to meet this shortage of pilots in the airlines?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) and (b) There is no shortage of pilots in the country. However, there is shortage of type rated pilots which is being met by expatriate pilots. The airlines have been advised to adopt effective training

programmes for Indian pilots for their endorsements on the type of aircraft operated by the airlines, who shall replace the foreign pilots after completion of their type rating training.

(c) to (e) At present, there is a shortage of pilots (Senior Captains / Commanders) due to the induction of new aircraft in NACIL (AI). To tide over the shortage of pilots, NACIL (AI) have been recruiting pilots on a regular basis from defence services, pilots with CPL as Trainee Pilots, accelerated training by hiring training facilities abroad and Cadet Pilots from Science and Engineering background.

(f) and (g) Foreign Pilots have been permitted to operate upto 31.07.2010 to meet the shortage of type rated pilots in the Airlines. In order to have sufficient quality pilots over longer period of time, the Indira Gandhi Rashtriya Uran Akademi (IGRUA) is being modernised through upgradation of civil and electrical infrastructure and acquisition of additional trainer aircraft. IGRUA has also entered into a management contract with M/s. CAE, a reputed international organisation in this field, to professionalise its management. The Government has also decided to set up a world-class institute at Gondia in Maharashtra as Joint Venture Enterprise under the aegis of Airports Authority of India. The other flying clubs in the country are also being supported by the Central Government by way of providing funds for acquisition of trainer aircraft through Directorate General of Civil Aviation and Aero Club of India.

Infrastructural facilities at major airports

135. DR. K. MALAISAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is fully aware that the infrastructural facilities in major Metro cities' airports in India are totally inadequate in the light of huge inflow of air traffic and the corresponding increase of flights;

(b) whether any survey was made well in advance and the problem was gauged well ahead or taken suddenly with reference to this situation; and

(c) how long, it will take to manage satisfactorily and stabilize?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI PRAFUL PATEL): (a) to (c) The unprecedented growth in civil aviation sector has thrown up challenges for airport infrastructure, specially at busy metro airports. Upgradation of Airport Infrastructure is a continuous process and is undertaken taking into consideration the growth rate, availability of land, availability of resources, socio-economic considerations and economic feasibility. Following steps have been taken to improve airport infrasructure in the country:

(i) Delhi and Mumbai airports have been restructured through joint venture route. Joint Venture Companies are undertaking the upgradation/development of these airports at an estimated cost of Rs.8975 crores (completion in March 2010) and Rs.9802 crores (completion in December 2012) respectively.

(ii) Two new Greenfield airports have become operation at Hyderabad and Bangalore in past one year.